

31. (New) A method for preserving cells comprising:

(a) providing bone marrow stromal cells (BMSCs) which have been transfected with an exogenous gene (transfected BMSCs), the level of expression of the exogenous gene of the transfected BMSCs having a predetermined value;

(b) washing said transfected BMSCs;

(c) detaching said transfected BMSCs from a tissue culture dish;

(d) suspending said transfected BMSCs in cryopreservation medium comprising:
about 10% dimethyl sulfoxide, about 1-50% fetal bovine serum, and about 89-40% Dulbecco's modified Eagles' medium;

(e) storing the transfected BMSCs at about -80°C ;

wherein said transfected BMSCs in the thawed state have a level of expression of the exogenous gene which is at least about 77% of said predetermined value.